

Dr. Mabel S. Spencer Award for Excellence in Graduate Achievement (AY 26-27)

The Spencer Award, established by the daughters of Dr. Mabel S. Spencer, honors the memory and outstanding professional achievements of Dr. Spencer. It carries a stipend of \$20,000 and candidacy tuition remission (if not covered by other tuition remission). Dr. Spencer taught at the University of Maryland from 1948 to 1968. Her energy, dynamic personality, and commitment to bringing about positive change made her a leader in the University community. Dedicated to programs and activities that advanced the interests of women at the University, Dr. Spencer was also known for her extraordinary ability to communicate with and provide assistance to her students, especially those from underrepresented minorities and from foreign countries.

A program may nominate ONE candidate for the Mabel S. Spencer Award. Nominations of women are especially encouraged for this award.

Criteria for the Spencer Award

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Have an outstanding record in graduate studies;
- Have a demonstrable potential to contribute to his or her field of study;
- Be a PhD candidate by August 1, 2026;
- Prepare a 1,000-1,500 word personal statement discussing academic experiences, accomplishments, challenges overcome, goals for the immediate post-doctoral period, and long-term career aspirations. This statement should be written for a non-specialist audience.

Nomination package must include:

- Nomination Cover Sheet (see page 2);
- The nominee's personal statement (see above);
- The nominee's *curriculum vitae* (2 page limit)
- Recommendation letter from the dissertation supervisor (1-2 pages);
- Recommendation letter from an additional faculty member who has worked closely with the nominee in some capacity (1-2 pages);

Submitting Nominations

Nominations for the Spencer Award must be made by the nominee's department/program. A program may nominate ONE candidate. Please submit each nomination package to the Graduate School Awards Portal at terpengage.umd.edu/gsawards/s/.

Nomination Deadline: Noon on Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

Contact Information: Please direct questions to Robyn Kotzker, Program Director for Office of Funding Opportunities, at 301-405-0281 or rkotzker@umd.edu.

**Dr. Mabel S. Spencer Award for Excellence in Graduate Achievement
COVER SHEET**

Mabel S. Spencer Award Webpage: gradschool.umd.edu/funding/student-fellowships-awards/dr-mabel-s-spencer-award-excellence-graduate-achievement.

Nomination Deadline: Noon, Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Complete nominations include:

1. Nomination cover sheet
2. Student-written personal statement
3. Student's C.V.
4. 2 Recommendation Letters

Student's name: _____

Directory ID or (UMD Email address): _____

College/School (use 4-letter code): _____

Department (use 4-letter code): _____

Each department/program may nominate ONE student for this award

Date (or expected date) of reaching candidacy: _____

Expected date of graduation: _____

Advisor: _____

Director of Graduate Studies: _____

Department's Coordinator: _____

Program Nominators: Please gather materials listed above and submit to the GS Awards Portal at terpengage.umd.edu/gsawards/s/ by the deadline.